

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: KATO, et al.

Filed: January 24, 2001

For: VACUUM PROCESSING APPARATUS AND OPERATING  
METHOD THEREFORPRELIMINARY AMENDMENTAssistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

January 24, 2001

Sir:

Please amend the above-identified application, prior to  
examination thereof, as follows:IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the specification as follows:

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 Page 1, delete lines 1-8 in their entirety, and  
 substitute therefor the following:

M. Gerson  
 #2/pre  
 amlt  
 7/26/2001

a1  
 - This application is a Divisional application of  
 application Serial No. 09/461,432, filed December 16, 1999,  
 which is a Continuation application of application Serial No.  
 09/177,495, filed October 23, 1998, <sup>Now 6,012,235</sup> which is a Continuation  
 application of application Serial No. 09/061,062, filed April  
 16, 1998, <sup>Now 5,450,330</sup> which is a Continuation application of application  
 Serial No. 08/882,731, filed June 26, 1997, <sup>Now 5,784,799</sup> which is a  
 Divisional application of application Serial No. 08/593,870,  
 filed January 30, 1996, <sup>Now 5,661,913</sup> which is a Continuing application of  
 application Serial No. 08/443,039, filed May 17, 1995, <sup>Now 5,563,396</sup> which  
 is a Divisional application of application Serial No.

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